

Message Text

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D/HA:MSCHNEIDER (DRAFT)

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EUR/SOV:JGLASSMAN (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102985

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, EAID, PDIP, GV, US, UR

SUBJECT: PL-480, HIGH LEVEL CONVERSATIONS, AND REPRESENTATION AT MAY 14 CELEBRATIONS

REF: A) CONAKRY 632 B) STATE 91904

1. GUINEAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS REPEATEDLY REMINDED US IN PAST FOUR DAYS THAT GOG HAS ASKED FOR DECISION ON THREE QUESTIONS:

A) WILL US IMPLEMENT PL-480, TITLE I AGREEMENT FOR 10,000 TONS OF RICE SIGNED IN CONAKRY SEPTEMBER 22 WHICH WE SUSPENDED SEPTEMBER 23.

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B) HOW WILL US RESPOND TO GUINEAN READINESS TO ENGAGE IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES AT THE LEVEL OF THE GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER.

C) HOW WILL US RESPOND TO INVITATION FROM GUINEAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO SECRETARY TO DESIGNATE REPRESENTATIVE

AT MAY 14 FESTIVITIES COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GUINEA (PDG).

2. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND TO EACH ALONG THE FOL-

LOWING LINES, IN WRITING, ORALLY OR BOTH AS YOU SEE FIT.

A) PL-480. THE US IS PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT THE PL-480 TITLE I AGREEMENT FOR 10,000 TONS OF RICE SIGNED SEPTEMBER 22 IN CONAKRY AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE A DELEGATION AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL IN WASHINGTON TO WORK OUT THE NECESSARY DETAILS OF PURCHASE AND SHIPMENT.

B) HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS. THE US GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE READINESS OF THE GOG TO UNDERTAKE CONSULTATIONS OF OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES AT THE LEVEL OF THE GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER AND EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE TO THIS SUGGESTION IN DUE COURSE.

C) US REPRESENTATION AT THE MAY 14 CELEBRATION. IN RESPONSE TO THE KIND INVITATION OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR WILLIAM HARROP AND THOMAS SMITH, THE DIRECTOR OF WEST AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATIONS OF MAY 14 ON HIS BEHALF. THE SECRETARY OF STATE EXPECTS THAT DURING MR. SMITH'S VISIT TO CONAKRY HE AND AMBASSADOR HARROP WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE GUINEAN GOVERNMENT ON THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

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3. THE EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITH THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF THE GOG DURING SMITH'S VISIT, PREFERABLY ON SUNDAY, MAY 15. THE GOG SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE A FULL AND DETAILED STATEMENT OF ITS POSITION ON THE ISSUES IT BELIEVES SIGNIFICANT. WHILE AMBASSADOR AND SMITH MAY ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES, THEY SHOULD RESERVE THEIR POSITION ON MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE GUINEAN POSITION.

4. WITH REGARD TO PL-480, AMBASSADOR AND SMITH MAY TAKE NOTE OF ANY REQUESTS GOG MAY MAKE FOR ADDITIONAL COMMODITIES, BUT SHOULD REQUEST A DETAILED JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY SUCH REQUEST. THEY SHOULD CONFINE THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR REPLIES TO THE COMMENT THAT ALL REQUESTS WILL BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED IN WASHINGTON IN THE LIGHT OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF THE GUINEAN PEOPLE AND

AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTIONS OF THE GUINEAN GOVERNMENT THAT DIRECTLY AFFECTS US INTERESTS.

5. IF THE GOG RAISES HUMAN RIGHTS, THEY SHOULD NOTE THE IMPORTANCE THE ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO THIS SUBJECT AND MAY MAKE APPROPRIATE COMMENTS ON SUCH ACTIONS AS THE GUINEANS MAY HAVE TAKEN IN THIS AREA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PDG. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME POLITICAL PRISONERS MAY BE RELEASED ON THIS OCCASION.)

6. IF THE GOG REPEATS ITS REQUEST OR A SECURITY GUARANTEE, AMBASSADOR AND SMITH SHOULD NOTE THAT WE CAREFULLY EXAMINED GUINEA'S SECURITY SITUATION IN LATE 1976 AND CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT GUINEA DID NOT FACE A CREDIBLE THREAT FROM ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS. AT THAT TIME THE UNITED STATES DECIDED THAT A "SECURITY GUARANTEE" CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS NEITHER NECESSARY NOR CONSISTENT WITH GUINEA'S PROFESSIONS OF NON-ALIGNMENT. EVENTS SINCE THAT TIME HAVE NOT LED US TO CHANGE THIS VIEW.

7. BEGIN FYI: WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO ACCEDE TO THE GUINEAN PROPOSAL FOR HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS BEFORE WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROBE THEIR POSITION BECAUSE WE DO NOT WISH TO RISK THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING OBLIGED TO GIVE A NEGATIVE ANSWER TO SENIOR GOG OFFICIALS, AND BECAUSE WE DO NOT WISH TO OVERBURDEN SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WITH A MEETING THAT MAY YIELD LITTLE TANGIBLE RESULT. END FYI

CHRISTOPHER

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